

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR CHILD WELFARE AWARDS; FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD TO RECOGNIZE SERVICE TO ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

DETROIT, MI, August 23, 2010 – The Foster Care Review Board is seeking nominations for its annual Child Welfare Awards, which honor judges, lawyers, foster care workers, and foster parents for exemplary service to children in Michigan’s foster care system.

FCRB Program Manager James Novell said that “The awards recognize those who protect, care for, and advocate for foster care children and their parents. These people have tremendous responsibilities, yet receive little, if any, recognition. The Child Welfare Awards were established to honor them and call attention to their difficult and demanding work.”

Categories include “Jurist of the Year” (judges and referees); “Foster Care Worker of the Year”; “LGAL of the Year” (lawyer guardians ad litem); “Foster Parent of the Year”; and “Parent Attorney of the Year.” Nomination forms are available online at <http://courts.ichigan.gov/scao/services/fcrb/fcrb.htm>. The deadline is September 15. Award recipients will be recognized at the FCRB annual training conference on November 4, 2010.

Created by the Michigan legislature in 1981, the FCRB provides a third-party review of the foster care system. The program is administered by the State Court Administrative Office, the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court, and is comprised of citizen volunteers who serve on one of 30 local review boards throughout the state. Local boards review randomly chosen child abuse and neglect cases to assess the performance of courts, the Michigan Department of Human Services, and private child welfare agencies.

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